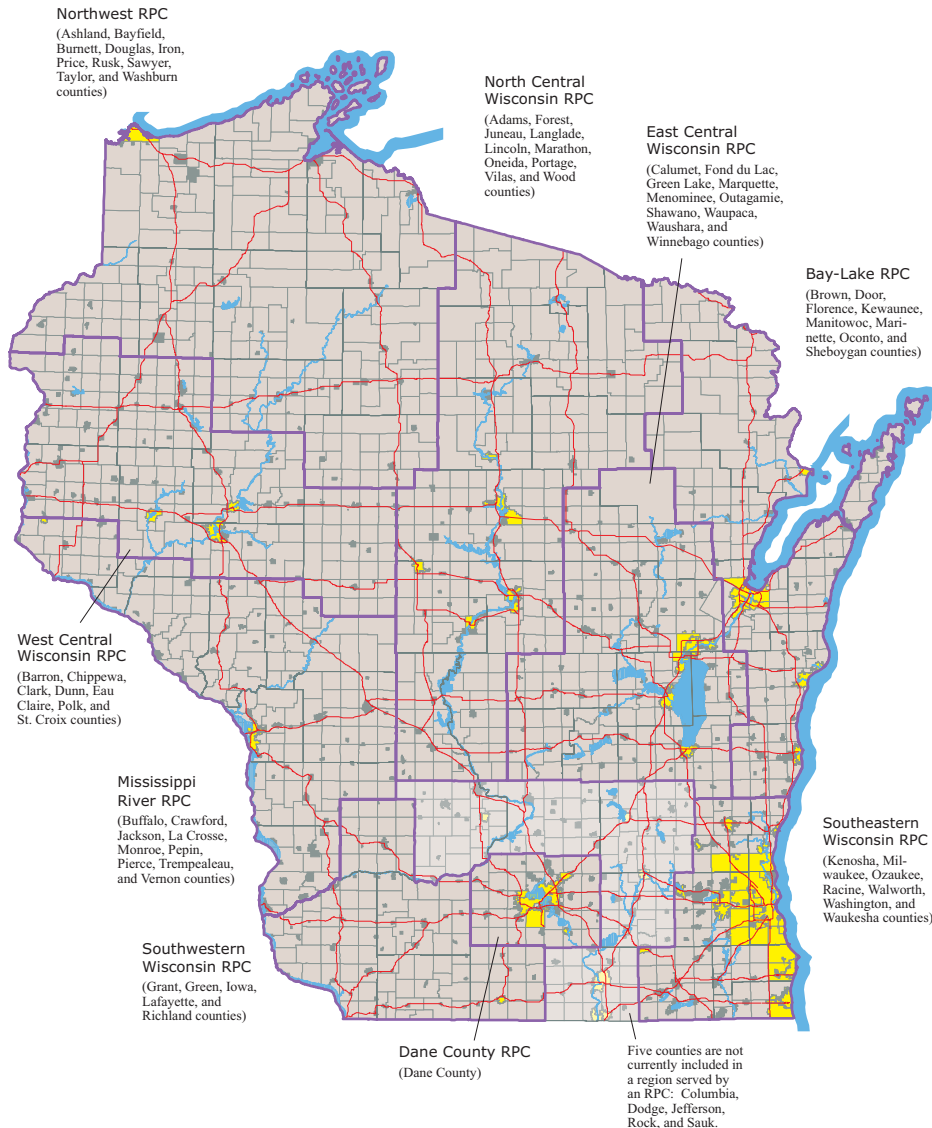


# Wisconsin at a Glance

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## Regional Planning Commissions, October 2003

A regional planning commission (RPC) assists the counties, towns, villages, and cities in a specified region with the shaping of land-use, infrastructure, and resource-management policies. As a part of its work, an RPC is required to prepare a master plan for the development of the region. The organization, powers, and duties of RPCs are governed by Section 66.0309, Wisconsin Statutes. Wisconsin currently has nine RPCs.

Typical RPC services include: map production; data collection and distribution; drafting of zoning and subdivision ordinances; grant writing assistance; revolving loan fund administration; highway corridor studies; sewer service area planning; economic development planning; park and open space planning; solid waste management planning; and environmental planning.

An RPC may also play a role in the operation of a state or federal program in the region it serves. For example, seven Wisconsin RPCs (all except the Dane County RPC and the Southeastern Wisconsin RPC) are designated by the U.S. Department of Commerce as Economic Development Districts. These RPCs prepare comprehensive economic development plans for their regions that the federal government uses to guide its selection of public works projects for grant assistance. Similarly, three Wisconsin RPCs are designated by the U.S. Department of Transportation as Metropolitan Planning Organizations for one or more urbanized areas: the Bay-Lake RPC (Sheboygan area); the East Central Wisconsin RPC (Appleton and Oshkosh areas); and the Southeastern Wisconsin RPC (Kenosha, Milwaukee, and Racine areas and the Wisconsin portion of the Round Lake Beach area). In this role, they develop transportation plans and prioritize transportation improvement projects for federal funding.

Each RPC is funded from three sources: state and federal grants; annual assessments charged to participating counties in the region served by the RPC (or to participating towns, villages, and cities, if any, in cases in which a county chooses not to participate); and the sale of special services to local governments in the region and other agencies.

An RPC must be dissolved by the governor if a majority of the local governments in the region request its dissolution. Such a request was made in the case of the Dane County RPC in 1998, and that RPC is scheduled to dissolve on October 1, 2004.

Prepared by Christopher Siciliano

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